



Hydrangea Help

Some common concerns and tips for success with Cape Cod's signature plant.

Where you plant makes a difference.

Although the blue and pink mophead and lacecap hydrangeas will live in full sun, their flowers will become brown by the end of July. Plant this type of hydrangeas where they get early morning sun but are shaded in the afternoon.

Water deeply less often and mulch to hold moisture in the soil.

Watering for a longer time every four to six days encourages deeper root systems. Spread one or two inches of mulch over the soil's surface. This amends the ground from the top down and preserves soil moisture.

In full sun areas, plant panicle types (*Hydrangea paniculata*) or smooth (*Hydrangea arborescens*) varieties.

Panicle hydrangeas come in many sizes, so match the right plant to your location. Smooth hydrangeas will also thrive in full sun or part shade.

Spots on your Hydrangea leaves?

Sometimes our customers see dark spots on their hydrangea foliage. This is a fungal issue and most damaged leaves often turn yellow and fall off of the plant. Some varieties of Hydrangea are more prone to fungal leaf spots than others. You can help by making sure that your plants aren't hit with lawn irrigation on a frequent basis. Water in the morning for a longer period so that you don't need to water as often. Deep watering less frequently is best.

Wilted plants on a hot day.

Since their flowers and leaves are large, hydrangeas lose a great deal of water through their pores on a hot day. Often these plants will wilt as a result, even if the soil is moist. This happens because the plants can't move the water up from the ground to their leaves and flowers fast enough to replace what they've lost through transpiration. If your plants recover after 5 PM, they don't need more water in the soil. *Macrophyllas* and *serratas* that are in full sun are most prone to wilting; consider moving these to a shadier location.

You can't make them shorter...

When it comes to our beloved blue mopheads and lacecaps, know that you can't keep them short. No matter when you may prune them down, they will be just as tall by mid-July the next season. Not only will they replace their growth in one year, but you'll have far fewer flowers. If your hydrangea is too tall for the location, move it in the fall and plant a shorter variety in that spot.